News release

Heatwave set to end

27 July 2006

Met Office forecasters are today saying the current heatwave is set to end over the next few days. Temperatures next week are expected to be lower, ranging from 19 to 25 °C - much closer to the seasonal average.

July is currently on course to be declared the UK's hottest month on record with an average mean temperature of 17.7 °C - the current record is 17.3 °C in July 1983 and August 1995.

So far this summer, mean temperatures for the UK are higher than they were at this point in 2003, the joint-warmest summer on record (together with 1976). However, the main heatwave in 2003 occurred in the first half of August, and it remains uncertain whether this summer will also be a record breaker.

July is normally the warmest month in the UK, although the highest temperature ever measured (38.5 °C at Faversham in Kent) was recorded on 10 August 2003. The latest monthly forecast for August 2006 suggests that temperatures will remain above average.

Latest forecast for the UK

Met Office Heat-Health watch

UK regional five-day UV index forecast

Latest UK observations

Notes to editors: The Met Office climate series dates back to 1914.

For further information:
Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655
E-mail: pressoffice@metoffice.gov.uk

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680

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